

## Israeli police dismantle Jerusalem protest tent

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli police Wednesday dismantled a Palestinian protest tent near a house taken over by extremist rightwing Jewish settlers a month ago in the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood of Arab east Jerusalem, police said. Police said they found three Palestinians in the tent, detained them for questioning and then released them. Faisal Hussein, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, set up the tent to draw attention to three settler families who moved into the house in Ras Al Amoud, an Arab quarter in east Jerusalem, on Sept. 14. The Israeli government later persuaded Jewish-American millionaire Irving Moskowitz, who said he legally bought the house, to replace the families with 10 rightwing religious students.

## Freak buffalo born in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — A freak buffalo born in Egypt with two heads and four legs was shown to the public at the Egyptian government's new zoo in Heliopolis. The animal, named 'Baba', was born on Oct. 10. It has two heads, each with a single eye, and four legs. The animal is said to be a cross between a buffalo and a cow.

## 66-year-old Israeli caught cheating on driver's licence exam

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A 66-year-old Israeli man was caught cheating on his driver's licence exam. The man, who was 66 years old, was caught by the examiners while he was driving the car. He was fined and his licence was suspended.

## Jagger's sore-throat hinders MTV premiere

NEW YORK (AFP) — Mick Jagger's sore throat hinders the MTV premiere of his new album. The singer, who is 50 years old, was unable to perform at the premiere. He was treated with antibiotics and his condition improved.

## Karlhoff was not a special effects

BERLIN (AFP) — Karlhoff was not a special effects actor. The actor, who is 45 years old, was accused of being a special effects actor. He denied the accusation and said he was a professional actor.

## Showgirls were not

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Showgirls were not. The showgirls, who were 18 years old, were accused of being showgirls. They denied the accusation and said they were professional dancers.

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# Jordan Times

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## Prince Mohammad sworn in as Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath left on a short visit to Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. Their Royal Highnesses were seen off at Amman International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid as well as other senior civilian and military officials. Prince Mohammad was sworn in as Regent before Prince Hassan and the Cabinet members.

## RJ steward sustains fractures in Sri Lanka bombing

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Nasser Lawzi said Wednesday that a Jordanian steward on a Royal Jordanian (RJ) plane, Maher Abu Fiddah, sustained fractures in his leg resulting from an explosion that took place Wednesday morning in Faldadi Hotel in Sri Lanka. Mr. Lawzi said the RJ crew which includes eight persons were staying at a hotel adjacent to the Faldadi Hotel where the bombing occurred. The RJ Executive President Nader Dababli talked to the crew and was assured of their good health and that they will return home Thursday.

## Arafat in very good health — Mubarak

BENI SUEF (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday gave his Palestinian counterpart Yasser Arafat a clean bill of health saying reports he was sick were mere propaganda. "We have a medical report here in Egypt which said that his health is very good," Mr. Mubarak told reporters who asked him if he had noticed anything wrong with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) president during their recent meetings. "It's propaganda against Mr. Arafat" to say that his health is failing.

## Canadian envoy returns to Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Canada's ambassador to Israel, David Berger, returned to the Jewish state Wednesday two weeks after being recalled over the use of false Canadian passports by two Israeli Mossad agents, officials said. Two Israeli intelligence agents using Canadian passports attempted to poison a Hamas leader, Khaled Misha'al, in Amman on Sept. 25.

## Israel delays demolitions to hear appeals

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Wednesday it was delaying punitive measures against the families of four Hamas militants who have pinpointed some of the "Stealth candidates" of the National Constitutional Party (NCP). The researchers, who compared the NCP members' list with the final list of registered candidates issued by governors in each electoral district, said they found at least 15 "independent" candidates who are either affiliated to or actively involved with the NCP. According to the researchers, nine of those 15 "independents" are members of the NCP central council. The pro-government NCP,

# Israel, Palestinians positive on code of conduct — Moratinos

TUNIS (R) — The European Union's (EU) Middle East envoy says Israel and the Palestinians have reacted positively to an EU-proposed code of conduct on the peace process. "Israel had a positive reaction in principle. They want to make some amendments, but they didn't reject it," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy had defended the idea of a code of conduct, Miguel-Angel Moratinos told reporters Tuesday night.

"Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) political department head

Farouk Khaddoumi also reacted positively," said Mr. Moratinos, who met Mr. Khaddoumi in Tunis. The EU envoy was speaking after a meeting with Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Said Ben Mustafa and Defence Minister Hahih Ben Yahia. "Tunisia found the EU proposal very serious and very positive," Mr. Moratinos said. He was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Hamed Karoui Wednesday. The code of conduct, approved by EU foreign ministers earlier this month, proposes that both

sides safeguard what has already been achieved in the peace process, introduce confidence measures in the fight against terrorism and abstain from unilateral measures harming the peace process. Mr. Moratinos said it was a possible framework for Israeli-Palestinian talks on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We are trying to establish a diplomatic framework that will [allow] no excuse for the parties to stop the negotiations as in the past," he said. He said the code also

proposed the establishment of a "permanent security committee." "The idea of a permanent security committee has a great chance to be accepted by the two parties," Mr. Moratinos said. The proposed committee would comprise the Israelis and Palestinians. If they agreed, they might also allow EU and U.S. representatives to join them. Mr. Moratinos said he planned to visit Morocco Thursday for a meeting with King Hassan.

## Israel called off previous plans to kill Misha'al in Turkey — press

Combined agency dispatches

A HAMAS political leader injured last month in a botched Mossad assassination had been targeted by the spy agency on other occasions, including an Islamist conference in Turkey last year, an Israeli newspaper reported Wednesday. Mossad agents injected Khaled Misha'al with a poisonous substance in the Sept. 25 attack in Amman. Israel army radio said Wednesday the liquid used was a strong synthetic opiate that disappeared without a trace. Mr. Misha'al

recovered after Israel provided an antidote. The Haaretz daily said the Mossad had originally planned to assassinate Mr. Misha'al in the summer of 1996 while the Hamas leader attended a conference of Islamist organisations in Turkey. The plan was dropped at the last minute amid concerns for Israeli-Turkish relations, the paper added. Haaretz said that there had been other plans to kill Mr. Misha'al but did not elaborate. An Israeli newspaper said Tuesday that before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the go-

ahead for the assassination attempt on Mr. Misha'al, a top Mossad agent warned the team picked for the hit was not ready for its mission. The official, whose name was not given, said they were not trained sufficiently and added that the operation had not been completely thought out, the daily Maariv said. The warning was reportedly the second sounded before the operation. A second high-level Mossad official said the complications of executing the hit in the Jordanian capital, Amman, had not been considered, Maariv added.

## 3 Islamists sentenced to death, 53 jailed for subversion in Egypt

HAEKSTEP (AP) — A military court on Wednesday sentenced three Islamists to death and 53 others including a British citizen to jail for planning assassinations, bombings and other subversive acts. A few of the accused murmured "Allahu Akbar," or God is Great, as the chief of the three-judge panel read out the verdict. Otherwise, the defendants stood calmly inside a massive steel cage, brought into an auditorium that was converted into a court-room for the mass trial of 87 suspects. The court acquitted 31 others. As the judges left after the six-minute session, many inside the cage yelled "Islam is the solution." Later, while being taken away in prison

trucks, they shouted "we will be victorious." Among the 53 sent to prison, two were jailed for life and the others got prison terms ranging from two years to 15 years of hard labour. In Egypt, conviction and sentencing are generally handed out simultaneously. The convicts can appeal the verdicts only to President Hosni Mubarak. One of those jailed for 10 years is Akram Sherif, an Egyptian who lived in Britain for 16 years and has a British passport. He was arrested along with the 86 others earlier this year and charged with collecting funds abroad for the Islamists. Such mass trials by military courts have been a common feature of the government's tough crackdown that has

sent scores of people to the death row and jailed hundreds. The militants have waged a campaign of violence since 1992 to try to overthrow Mr. Mubarak's secular government and replace it with strict Islamist rule. More than 1,100 people — mostly militants and policemen — have been killed. Wednesday's verdict was against members of the outlawed group, the Jihad, or holy war, which was responsible for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat, Mr. Mubarak's predecessor. The government says the group is now largely crushed as are other militant

(Continued on page 2)

## 15 NCP 'Stealth candidates' identified; nine central council members running as independents — research group

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Researchers at Al Urdun Al Jadid yesterday said they have pinpointed some of the "Stealth candidates" of the National Constitutional Party (NCP). The researchers, who compared the NCP members' list with the final list of registered candidates issued by governors in each electoral district, said they found at least 15 "independent" candidates who are either affiliated to or actively involved with the NCP. According to the researchers, nine of those 15 "independents" are members of the NCP central council. The pro-government NCP,

which announced in late September a list of 12 official candidates, has never denied the existence of a second list of so-called "Stealth candidates," named after the U.S. fighter plane that avoids radar detection. In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times yesterday, NCP Deputy Secretary General and Spokesperson Hakam Kheir confirmed his party's support to all its members running in the elections. Mr. Kheir, however, rejected the terminology commonly used by the press in dealing with the issue. "Rather than 'secret' list, it should be called 'unofficial list,'" he said. Addressing a press confer-

ence on the occasion of the announcement of the party's ticket, two weeks ago, NCP Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali also confirmed that some NCP members could reveal themselves only after they won the elections. Mr. Majali then said that nothing prevented any winning candidate from joining the party's bloc in the 13th Parliament, provided he/she shares the party's platform. Election watchers offer various explanations for the phenomenon of unofficial candidates. They say that in districts where two or more prominent candidates from the same tribe are competing, the NCP prefers not to openly back up one or the other

because, if the chosen candidate is not elected, the party would lose the support of the winner. Al Urdun Al Jadid's list of Stealth candidates seems to confirm such theory, as it includes prominent former officials or deputies running against each other in the same district. In other cases, analysts say, some candidates prefer to run independently, and join the party's ranks only after reaching Parliament. One "Stealth candidate" told the Jordan Times that he was asked to run under the NCP ticket, but refused because he was worried of losing tribal votes if his name

(Continued on page 2)

## Israeli foreign minister to visit Jordan — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will visit Jordan next month after Jordanian parliamentary elections, Jordan's ambassador to Israel said according to Israeli Radio. Ambassador Omar Rifai said the invitation was extended to Mr. Levy after he criticised the failed Mossad spy service operation launched by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to murder Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al in Amman, the radio said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said however he was not aware of Mr. Levy's plans to travel to Jordan.



CHECKING OUT THE LATEST ON WHEELS: His Majesty King Hussein looks at the latest Daimler on the Jaguar stand at the British Motor Show, Wednesday. The King is currently on a visit in the U.K. with Her Majesty Queen Noor (Reuters photo)

## EU-U.S. open talks on trade rift over Libya, Iran, Cuba

BRUSSELS (AP) — U.S. and European Union (EU) negotiators opened two days of talks Tuesday hoping to avoid a trade war over U.S. legislation punishing foreign firms doing business with Cuba, Iran and Libya. The negotiating teams were up against a Wednesday midnight deadline to overcome differences that have soured trans-Atlantic relations for months. The 15-nation EU had warned Washington that unless a favourable deal was brokered by Thursday, it could challenge the legislation at the World Trade Organisation. But the chief U.S. negotiator, assistant secretary

of state for economic and business affairs, Alan Larson, was hoping the talks could continue beyond Wednesday even if no agreement was reached at that stage. "We are prepared to continue to work on this not just up to the 15th but beyond the 15th," he said a few hours after the negotiations had started. EU trade spokesman Nigel Gardner said the talks would likely drag on into Wednesday night. "We are not expecting a substantial announcement on Tuesday," Mr. Gardner said. An EU official, who demanded anonymity, said the first session of talks Tuesday had shown

a "considerable gap" continued to divide the negotiators. The two sides are fighting over U.S. laws that seek to punish companies trading with the three countries, which Washington considers rogue states sponsoring terrorism. The issue came to a head late last month when the U.S. administration reacted angrily to French oil giant Total signing a \$2 billion contract to develop an Iranian natural gas field. Washington is investigating the deal under the U.S. Iran-Libya sanctions act, which may result in sanctions against the French company.

## U.N. aid officials appeal for Kurd ceasefire in north Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. aid officials appealed Wednesday for a ceasefire between feuding Kurdish factions in northern Iraq and warned that the fighting could hamper food distribution and a children's polio vaccination programme. Dennis Halliday, who is in charge of implementation of the U.N. oil-for-food programme, travelled from Baghdad to the Kurdish-held north to call for a halt to the fighting. "The situation in northern Iraq continues to be of grave concern to the U.N.," since the clashes between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) erupted on Monday, said a U.N. spokesman. Eric Falt, spokesman for the coordinator of U.N. humanitarian operations, said the vaccination pro-

gramme was set for Oct. 18-20. "A suspension (of fighting) is very important for the health of children under five," he said. The dates can not be changed because "to be effective" the campaign is to be carried out simultaneously in Kurdish areas of neighbouring Turkey, Syria and Iran, he explained. The spokesman told a press conference that Mr. Halliday's visit was planned before the outbreak of fighting and was aimed at assessing the success of food distribution in the north under the oil-for-food accord. Sanctions-hit Iraq resumed limited oil exports in December to finance imports of food and medicine. The United Nations is in charge of distribution in the north, which is under Kurdish control in defiance of Baghdad.

The programme has so far not been disrupted, he said, although "many trucks used for food distribution in areas affected by the fighting have been now borrowed by the warring factions for military purposes." Mr. Falt said the fighting has also cut electricity supplies to the Kurdish city of Erbil, but the main towns of Iraqi Kurdistan have so far been spared in the KDP-PUK clashes to the northeast toward the Iranian border. Movement of U.N. personnel in much of Erbil governorate has, however, been restricted, he said. Mr. Falt said the United Nations had "received reports that sympathisers of both factions are being expelled" and appealed for them to prevent the creation of more displaced persons within Iraqi Kurdistan.

## Kurd rebels threaten economic warfare

TUNCALI (R) — Kurdish guerrillas have threatened to attack economic targets and kill public employees in their campaign for self-rule in southeastern Turkey. Top Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) commander Semdin Sakik told the MED-TV Kurdish television station in a taped interview shown Tuesday night that the rebels would bomb the energy, textile and transport sectors. "We will attack energy transmission lines all over

Turkey, bridges, factories, airports, oil and gas installations and textile factories in (the southern area of) Cukurova," he said. "We will attack every sector that provides money for the treasury," he said. The guerrillas have only partially carried out previous threats of economic warfare on Turkey. Mr. Sakik, also known as "Fingerless Zeki," said the guerrillas would target leading bureaucrats and civil servants as well as the families of high-rank-

ing military officers. "Civilians might die because only guns can speak when the bullets are being fired," said Mr. Sakik, the PKK's number two who has a reputation for ferocity. More than 27,000 people have been killed in the 13 years of conflict. Turkish troops have been slowly pulling out of northern Iraq this week after a month-long operation against PKK bases there.



# Sheikh Yassin condemns killing civilians, rules out joining PNA

Combined agency dispatches

**HAMAS FOUNDER** Sheikh Ahmad Yassin has in remarks published Monday condemned the killing of civilians in Israel by his group.

Sheikh Yassin also said Hamas can coexist with the Jews. His comments were made during an interview published in the London-based Arabic weekly, Al Wasat.

Asked to comment on Hamas operations that sometimes kill civilians, Sheikh Yassin said: "We are a people who condemn the killing of civilians. We don't see this [killing of civilians] as a good thing."

"The civilians must be spared in the conflict," Sheikh Yassin, who is also Hamas' spiritual leader, said in the telephone interview from his home in the Gaza Strip.

The criticism is unusual for a Hamas leader, given that the group has claimed responsibility for the two

Jerusalem suicide bombings in July and September that killed 21 Israelis.

Sheikh Yassin, however, said, Israel should avoid targeting civilians first, and "we will then be the first to do the same."

"Why are they demolishing the houses of civilians and displacing women and children? Why are they putting in jail civilians who have committed no crime? Why are they confiscating the lands and properties of civilians? Why are they strangling the people and leaving them without food or water?" he said.

Sheikh Yassin was released earlier this month by Israel after serving eight years of a life sentence for ordering the killings of Israelis and Palestinian collaborators during the Palestinian uprising.

Sheikh Yassin returned to his home in the Gaza Strip last Monday as part of a swap following the Israeli assassination attempt in Jordan on Hamas leader Khalid Misha'al.

Asked to comment on Hamas' call for the destruction of Israel, Sheikh Yassin said "the Hamas movement wants to regain its right, territory and home... we don't hate the Jews. We are seeking our right and we want to live like others live."

Asked whether this signalled a change in his position, Sheikh Yassin was quoted as saying: "We can live with the Jews because they belong to a religion. We don't attack those who belong to religions. We respect them."

In another interview with the United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad, Sheikh Yassin said Hamas will never join the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) because it is opposed to the autonomy accords with Israel.

Sheikh Yassin said his Hamas would remain an opposition group.

"It is not possible (to join) because we see the PNA as an outcome of the Oslo (autonomy) agreement, which we believe has failed

to achieve the rights of the Palestinian people," he told the newspaper.

"We will not participate in an authority which has committed itself to implementing that agreement. In all countries, there is an authority and an opposition and we are an opposition."

Sheikh Yassin said Hamas, which has carried out a series of deadly anti-Israeli suicide bombings, would pursue its attacks until Israel withdraws from all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He repeated an offer for a ceasefire but stressed Israel must quit Palestinian land, including east Jerusalem, free all prisoners, remove Jewish settlements and provide a safe passage between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Israel must also stop interfering in our affairs and allow us complete control over our borders and outlets with Arab states," he said. "If Israel does all this, then we will stop our military attacks for a period of time."



**CHILDREN PROTEST:** Two Palestinians wearing an outfit that resembles a prison with chains in their hands head a children's march on Wednesday in occupied Jerusalem. The children's father is held in an Israeli jail for an anti-Israeli attack. Scores of Palestinian children as well as children from Italy, Sweden and the United States participated in this festival (AFP photo)

## Israelis accused of trying to blackmail Egyptian envoy

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — An Israeli belly dancer and a male friend are being investigated over allegations they tried to blackmail Egypt's ambassador to Israel by accusing him of rape, judicial officials said Wednesday.

Mohammad Bassiouny accused the woman and her friend of blackmail after she lodged a rape complaint against the veteran ambassador two months ago, Israeli radio reported.

An Israeli court lifted a censorship order on the affair Wednesday after the rape case against Mr. Bassiouny was dropped and another

investigation opened into his allegations against the couple, the radio reported.

The two were released last week on bail pending possible charges, it said.

Police had investigated the complaint by the woman, from the Tel Aviv area, and passed the case on to Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein who decided there was not enough evidence to press charges against Mr. Bassiouny.

Last month Mr. Bassiouny accused Israeli officials of a campaign of harassment after guards at the Egyptian border searched his car and

authorities allowed a protest outside his residence.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak complained to the Israeli government about the incidents.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman said he regretted that "certain elements in Israel... wanted to do [Bassiouny] harm."

Mr. Weizman said his door was always open to Mr. Bassiouny, adding that both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy had spoken to the ambassador over his complaints.

## Khartoum bans newspaper lottery draws as anti-Islamic

**KHARTOUM (AP)** — The Sudanese government has banned newspaper-market lotteries, branding them anti-Islamic, a newspaper reported here Wednesday.

Lotteries "go against the Islamic orientation of the nation," said justice ministry's fatwa, or an Islamic edict, published in the daily newspaper Akhbar Alyoun.

One of the companies that has been publishing the lottery coupons is the government-owned Sudan Free Zones and Markets Corporation.

The fatwa stated that lotteries amounted to gambling and ordered all media companies "to halt such publicity immediately."

For the past few months, newspapers — particularly sports dailies and magazines — have taken to publishing lottery coupons to boost both circulation and advertising revenue.

Scores of companies, often biscuit manufacturers, have been running lotteries in the press in the past few months, offering cars or six-figure amounts of money.

The ministry acted on the recommendation of a group of Islamic scholars who included the professor of Islamic Sharia law at Khartoum University, the vice chancellor of the city's Holy Koran University, and the deputy vice chancellor of Omdurman Islamic University.

Sudan's military-backed Islamic government is heavily influenced by the National Islamic Front whose leader, parliamentary speaker Hassan Turabi, is regarded as the key policy-maker.

## Jordan, Israel work on 'damage control'

From The Jerusalem Post

**JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR** Omar Rifa'i Tuesday conferred with Foreign Ministry Director General Eitan Bentsur on ways to put Israeli-Jordanian relations back on track after the bungled Mossad operation in Amman. They also discussed various joint economic projects.

Mr. Rifa'i said he has received numerous expressions of support from rank-and-file Israelis who expressed friendship for King Hussein and the people of Jordan.

Mr. Bentsur also met the Palestinian side of the Oslo-initiated committee on people-to-people relations, headed by Sufian Abu Zaide, and discussed programmes

designed to generate amity between Israelis and Palestinians at the grassroots level.

In another development, Canadian Ambassador David Berger delayed his scheduled return by 24 hours because of an eye infection. He was expected to arrive Wednesday. Mr. Berger was recalled Oct. 4 in protest against the botched Mossad operation in Amman last month in which forged Canadian passports were used.

The IDF also hosted Jordanian military officers Tuesday. The IDF spokesman said a group of Jordanian commanders had spent the past two days in Israel discussing "topics of mutual interest and the continuation of military cooperation between the Israeli and Jordanian armies."

## 3 Islamists sentenced to death, 53 jailed for subversion in Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

organisations. But sporadic attacks continue.

Two of the three sentenced to death Wednesday were tried in absentia and remain at large. The Islamist in custody, Adel Ali Bayoumi Al Sudani, 41, is the head of the group's military wing.

According to the formal prosecution statement in court, all three were charged with "using force, terror and threats."

They also were accused of

"revolving against the government and forming groups that carry out the assassination of security personnel, public figures and bombings of economic installations."

The charges did not name specific targets.

The trial was closed to the public, including the families of the defendants, and about 60 women and children with lunch packets waited on the steps of the auditorium, located in the town of Haekestep, 40 kilometres northeast of Cairo.

Military police prevented reporters from talking to the convicts.

"This is like a cinema, all lies and more lies," said Hajia Amani, whose son was one of the defendants.

Last month, another military court sentenced four militants to death, eight to life imprisonment and 60 others to jail terms. They were among 97 people tried for being part of the Islamic Group, the most powerful Islamists organisation in Egypt.

## 15 NCP 'Stealth candidates' identified

(Continued from page 1)

was linked to any specific party.

"If I won as an independent in the last elections, chances are that I might win again with the same formula," said the 12th Parliament deputy said.

In other cases, a Stealth candidate could be competing against a declared NCP candidate in order to ensure that at least one of the two wins.

The Stealth candidates identified by Al Urdun Al Jadid include: Amjad Majali and Mansour Ben Tareef (Karak), Hashem Dabbas

(Balqa), Ahmad, Hani and Fahad Qudab (Ajloun), Samir Qawar (Balqa), Mohammad Thweib (Amman's 2nd District), Mohammad Huneidi, Barjes Hadeed and Hamad Abu Zeid (Amman's 4th District), Miffleh Rumeini (Jerash), Aysna Khawja Razem (Amman's 1st District), No'man Ghweiri (Zarqa), and Osama Malgawi (Ramtha and Bani Kinaneh). Meanwhile, Mr. Khair announced also yesterday the appointment of Ghaleb Abu Jaber and Badri Mulki as NCP Higher Steering Committee chairman and vice-president, respectively.

The two were appointed yesterday during a committee meeting chaired by NCP Secretary General Majali.

The appointments came as a result of the resignation three weeks ago of former president of the Higher Steering Committee, Akif Fayeze.

Mr. Fayeze was the most prominent among around one hundred NCP members and leaders who resigned from the party in the last four weeks. The resignees lamented "tyranny and lack of democracy in the party's decision-making process."

U.S. authorities endangering life of Islamist leader

**CAIRO (AFP)** — U.S. prison authorities are "cruelly" endangering the life of the spiritual guide of Egypt's main Islamist group who is serving a life sentence in the United States, his U.S. lawyer claimed, Ramsey Clark, in a letter to warden Pat Keohane of the U.S. Federal Prison Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, charged that repeated calls to improve detention conditions for Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman have been ignored. "Despite urgent pleas you have failed to take a single step to protect the health and life of Dr. Abdul Rahman," Mr. Clark said in the letter, a copy of which was received in Cairo by Agence France Presse on Wednesday. "His present condition, particularly his diabetes, is life threatening and deteriorating," said Mr. Clark, a former U.S. attorney general.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

14:10...New Kids on the Block

14:30...My Little Fairy Tale

15:00...America's Funniest People

15:30...He Shoots He Scores

16:00...I Love Lucy

16:30...The Boy From Andromeda

17:00...French Programmes

19:00...News in French

19:15...French Programmes

19:30...News Headlines

19:35...Trivial Pursuit

20:00...Parenthood

20:30...Lois and Clark — Superman

21:10...Oprah Winfrey Show

22:00...News in English

22:30...Feature Film

23:59...End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:18...Fajr

05:35...Sunrise/Duha

11:21...Dhuhr

14:36...Asr

17:07...Maghreb

18:24...Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Waffish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
63785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**Terra Sancta Church** Tel. 622366

**Anglican Church** Tel. 652826

**Armenian Catholic Church** Tel. 771331

**Armenian Orthodox Church** Tel. 775261

**St. Ephraim Church** Tel. 771751

**Armenian International Church** Tel. 5516245

**Evangelical Lutheran Church** Tel. 824328

**German-speaking Evangelical Congregation** Tel. 688404

**The Latter-Day Saints** Tel. 654932

**Church of Nazareth** Tel. 675691

**The Evangelical Local Church in Amman** Tel. 811295

**English-speaking Latin Catholics** Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Under the effect of warm and unstable weather conditions, it will be hot with temperatures higher than average by seven degrees centigrade. Clouds will appear at different altitudes with a chance of scattered showers in the evening, and winds southeasterly moderate to active. On Friday,

there will be a gradual drop in temperatures. In Aqaba, it will be hot and occasional dusty, winds southerly moderate, and seas choppy.

Amman .....21/36

Aqaba .....25/40

Deserts .....17/36

Jordan Valley .....24/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY AMMAN:**

Dr. Issam Al-Azmar .....390504

Dr. Nidal Al-Azmar .....751672

Dr. Khalid Klob .....816155

Dr. Osama Al-Husseini .....847389

Firas pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....778336

Al Asena pharmacy .....637055

Natroukh pharmacy .....623672

Yacoub pharmacy .....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660

Najib pharmacy .....847632

**IRBID:**

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh .....250080

Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

**ZARQA:**

Dr. Hafez Salifu .....914144

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### EMERGENCIES

**Food Control Centre** .....637111

**Civil Defence Department** .....661111

**Civil Defence Immediate Rescue** .....630341

**Civil Defence Emergency** .....199

**Rescue Police 192** .....621111, 637777

**Fire Brigade** .....617101

**Blood Bank** .....775121

**Highway Police** .....843402

**Traffic Police** .....896390

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**Price Complaints** .....661176

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**Central Amman Telephone Repairs** .....623101

**Abdali Telephone Repairs** .....661101

**Jordan Television** .....773111

**Radio Jordan** .....774111

**Water Authority** .....680100

**Jordan Electricity Authority** .....815615

**Electric Power Company** .....636381

**RJ Flight Information** 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

**AMMAN:**

Husseini Medical Centre .....813813/32

Khalidi Maternity .....642381/6

Akileh Maternity .....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362

Mallat, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....669131

University Hospital .....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital .....667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3

Al-Bashir .....775111/26

Army, Marika .....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital .....60240/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

**ZARQA:**

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990

**IRBID:**

Princess Basma Hospital

(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital

(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital

(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

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### ARRIVALS

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**

07:05...Sanaa (RJ)

08:45...New Delhi (RJ)

09:05...Dhahran Riyadh (RJ)

09:05...Bombay (RJ)

09:25...Beirut (RJ)

09:40...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

09:45...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

10:00...Colombo (RJ)

14:15...Kuwait (RJ)

16:05...Moscow (RJ)

18:00...Jeddah (add) (RJ)

18:10...Athens (RJ)

18:15...London, Aqaba (RJ)

18:20...Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

18:45...Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

### Other Flights

07:50...Medan (EK)

12:00...Riyadh (SV)

12:55...Doha (GF)

13:30...Al 'Arish (PF)

13:40...Shanqah (AH)

15:00...Rome (AZ)

18:00...Dubai (EK)

18:50...Tel Aviv (LY)

20:00...Cairo (MS)

20:10...Beirut (ME)

23:20...Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

04:40...London (BA)

08:00...Dubai (EK)

**Royal Wings (RW) (For Thursday and Friday)**

07:45...Aqaba (RW)

09:05...Amman (QAIA) (RW)

09:50...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

17:20...Tel Aviv (RW)

18:30...Amman (QAIA) (RW)

21:20...Aqaba (RW)

22:50...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**

05:45...Beirut (RJ)

06:20...Moscow (RJ)

08:40...Kuwait (RJ)

10:35...Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

11:00...Aqaba, Paris (RJ)

11:10...Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

11:15...Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

11:20...Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

12:20...Athens (RJ)

12:25...London (RJ)

12:30...Jeddah (add) (RJ)

19:45...Abu Dhabi, Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)

20:10...Cairo (RJ)

20:20...Laracca (RJ)

20:40...Jeddah (RJ)

21:00...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

21:25...Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

### Other Flights

03:00...Athens (OA)

05:15...Istanbul (TK)

07:45...Beirut (ME)

08:10...London (BA)

09:00...Amsterdam (GA)

13:30...Riyadh (SV)

13:45...Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

14:30...Annaba (Algeria) (AH)

16:00...Rome (AZ)

19:00...Damascus, Dubai (EK)

20:10...Tel Aviv (LY)

21:00...Cairo (MS)

01:30...Amsterdam (KL)

07:45...Beirut (ME)

09:00...Dubai (EK)

09:25...London (BA)

**Royal Wings**

(For Thursday and Friday)

06:45...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

08:15...Aqaba (RW)

09:30...Amman (QAIA) (RW)

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17:55...Tel Aviv (RW)

20:30...Amman (QAIA) (RW)

21:50...Aqaba (RW)

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## Human rights society urges action ensuring food availability, security

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Society for Human Rights (JSHR) Wednesday urged the government to adopt plans and take practical steps toward ensuring food security for the Jordanian people and to tighten controls on foodstuffs offered to consumers.

Issued on the eve of World Food Day (WFD) on Oct. 16, a JSHR statement noted the following points:

\* JSHR is concerned about the food security situation in the Kingdom, in view of decreased agricultural production and increased dependence on imported foodstuffs. The group calls for immediate action to address this imbalance.

\* JSHR notes that poverty has been spreading and it is estimated that one-third of the population lives at or under the poverty line, according to statistics from the Ministry of Social Development. Due to low income and the continual rise in food prices, many families do not get sufficient food, which results in malnutrition and poor health.

\* The government's food policies are not based on sound principles and rules.

The public continues to bear reports on the seizure of thousands of tonnes of food unfit for human consumption by health authorities, and the closure of restaurants, food stores, and poultry farms for violation of public health safety rules. These are measures that JSHR encourages, but little is being done to control imported food, as is shown in the recent discovery of worms in imported fish and bad milk products.

The statement noted with regret that the government's promises to introduce a draft law on food have not been honoured and obstacles are continually placed in the path of the Jordanian Consumer Society's work.

The statement appealed to the government to end its indifference to the dangerous situation posed to the nation, stating that the state should:

\* Take responsibility for providing sufficient quantities of safe food.

\* Subject all food policies to a parliamentary committee's decisions.

\* Take measures to increase food production.

\* Introduce and apply a food law in Parliament.

\* Impose heavy deterrent

penalties on the violators of the food law.

In observance of WFD, Minister of Agriculture Mijbhem Khreisba said Jordan has been exerting efforts to increase food production, though almost 90 per cent of the Kingdom's lands are semi-desert and only five per cent of the remaining land is suitable for crop cultivation.

Despite the obstacles and the limited water supplies, Jordan has achieved self-sufficiency in vegetables, fruits, poultry, and eggs, and has recently increased its production of red meat and milk, according to the minister.

Many of these agricultural products are exported to Arab and foreign countries, he noted.

The Kingdom is still struggling to bridge a large gap in the production of field crops, animal feed, and grain, he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture's plans to increase food production and the involvement of the private sector are expected to help Jordan become self-sufficient in most necessary foodstuffs, Mr. Khreisba stated.

The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for

Western Asia (ESCWA) issued a statement to mark WFD, which read:

"Defeating hunger does not depend simply on producing more food. The only sustainable way to achieve food security for the poor is by increasing their access to food. This can be done, for example, by making appropriate agricultural technologies available to poor farmers, improving the rural poor's access to credit for agriculture, investing in productive assets like small-scale irrigation systems that benefit small farmers, improving health and primary education, especially for girls, and ensuring that the poor are able to participate in the planning of development programmes."

"This year's WFD activities, with the theme 'Investing in Food Security,' will provide the opportunity to focus on the policies, programmes, and actions undertaken or planned by governments and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in partnership with all members of civil society and the international community."

## Prime minister emphasises Kingdom's pan-Arab role

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday emphasised Jordan's continued endeavours to bolster ties with Arab countries at all levels and the Kingdom's continued drive to enhance collective Arab action vis-à-vis all matters of national interest.

In a lecture delivered at the Royal Jordanian War College, Dr. Majali said Jordan is pursuing a policy in support of all Arab League institutions and various league activities in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, which aimed at unifying the Arabs.

Those principles motivated HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to create the Arab Thought Forum, a platform enabling Arab intellectuals to discuss pan-Arab issues freely, he said.

Jordan, he said, believes that relations with other countries should be based on the principles of justice, freedom, and mutual

respect of sovereignty and the exchange of interests, and has been maintaining balanced relations with all countries.

Due to its spiritual and religious links with the Islamic World, Jordan is committed to enhancing cultural, economic, and political relations, according to Dr. Majali, who noted that His Majesty King Hussein has directed the government to create the Al al-Bayt Foundation to allow Islamic scholars to work together for the benefit of Muslims everywhere.

Referring to foreign relations, the prime minister said the Kingdom respects and remains committed to international treaties and conventions and is an active member in the implementation of various international agreements, including those guaranteeing the rights of women and children, prohibiting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and concerning the protection of the environment.

Not only is Jordan dedicated to strengthening its ties with various nations, including the major powers, but it has also been an active member of several U.N. organisations, according to Dr. Majali.

Jordan has carefully been steering away from the policy of polarisation, and has been trying to ensure friendly relations, especially with nations neighbouring the Arab World, he said.

On the Palestinian problem, Dr. Majali said Jordan continues to support the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their rights and has been dedicated to helping them over the past 70 years.

Jordan has enabled the Palestinians to enter peace negotiations to assume the responsibility for determining their own future, he said.

Stressing the strategic nature of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Dr. Majali said the special relationship

between the two sides takes priority over other matters, despite occasional difficulties.

Referring to the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty, he said it has secured the country's international boundaries, ended Israel's ambitions for Jordanian land and water resources, and buried forever the Israeli idea of Jordan being the substitute Palestinian homeland.

His Majesty King Hussein has been committed to strengthening the Jordan Armed Forces and has succeeded in making the military a model for other Arab countries, the prime minister said.

In addition to protecting the homeland, he said the armed forces, which have participated in peace-keeping missions around the world, are playing an active role in the development of the country.

## Man accused of 'honour' killing of wife, children goes on trial

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 40-year-old man accused of killing his wife and four of his six children in Karak in May Wednesday pleaded not guilty to the charges in front of the Criminal Court at his opening trial.

Awad Mohammad reportedly opened fire on his family shortly after midnight on May 13, killing his 35-year-old wife Samar Salah, and his children Ahmad, seven, Basma, six, Sahar, one, and Ibrahim, four months.

At the beginning of the court session, Mr. Mohammad's attorney asked the court to transfer his client to mental health experts for examination "because my client's mother and a close relative were treated for mental problems in the past."

The court tribunal, which was presided over by Judge Mohammad Ajameh and included Judges Mifleh Mobeidin and Issa Hamdan, rejected the attorney's request and ordered that the session proceed as normal.

"It is obvious to our court that the defendant does not seem to suffer from any mental disorders, and we see no need to transfer him to a mental institute," Judge Ajameh said.

The court heard two witnesses Wednesday, including Mr. Mohammad's relative Ali Salem, who told the court that on the night of the murder the defendant came to his house in Karak and informed him that he killed his wife and children.

"He told me that he shot and killed his family, and that if he had more bullets

left in his gun, he would have shot himself as well," the 44-year-old witness told the court.

Mr. Mohammad was quoted by officials as claiming that he killed his wife and children to cleanse his family's "honour," because he suspected that his wife had a relation with another man and that his children were not his.

The defendant faces five counts of premeditated murder and two counts of attempted murder, which were brought against him by Criminal Prosecutor Saleh Lawzi.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the suspect, who married Ms. Salah in 1987, plotted to kill her and his children in mid-1996 to cleanse his "honour," and bought a gun for this purpose.

On the night of the incident, Mr. Mohammad

locked his wife and six children in his house, drew a gun, and opened fire at his family. When he ran out of ammunition, he brought a kitchen knife and stabbed the rest, according to the charge sheet.

The two children who survived the shooting incident were Rasba, four, who suffered from knife and bullet injuries, and Nermeen, eight, who hid in her bedroom closet.

After the incident, relatives and family members said Mr. Mohammad had suffered from financial problems, and "that was the reason he killed his family."

The court tribunal adjourned the session until Oct. 20 to hear more prosecution witnesses in the case.

## Three more parliamentary candidacies rejected, bringing total number to 13

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three more candidacies were rejected for failing short of the requirements stipulated by the Elections Law, according to Arabic press reports Wednesday.

Quoting sources at various administrative governors' offices, the reports listed the candidacies of Yahia Oteibi (Zarqa), Adeb Farah (Irbid), and Hatem Salameh (Balqa) as the three rejected.

Mr. Oteibi was reportedly found ineligible under Article 20 of the 1986 Elections Law, which forbids public sector employees to run for Parliament and sets the conditions for their resignations from their posts in order to become eligible.

As for the other two rejected

candidacies, the reports simply stated "legal reasons" without elaborating.

Ten candidacies were rejected earlier this week. The would-be candidates who were not in compliance with the requirements stipulated by the law are Jamal Abu Yahia and Nayel Wada'an Da'jeh (Amman First District), Ahmad Shami (Amman Third District), Dahoud Daradkeh, Jamal Ensour, and Sa'oud Zubaidi (Amman Fifth District), Deifallah Ziben (Central Bedouins), and Issam Sulaiman and Wafiq Naddaq (Zarqa).

One candidacy was also rejected in Salt, but the candidate's name was not revealed.

According to an Arabic press report, Mr. Zubaidi's candida-

cy was rejected because the name stated in the application did not match the name appearing on the documents produced with it.

Article 18 of the elections law lists the conditions for membership in the 80-seat Lower House as follows: Jordanian nationality, registration in the final electoral lists, and 30 years of age.

The same article also states that would-be candidates should not have been sentenced to "a prison term exceeding one year for a non-political crime" and that they cannot have been convicted for a moral felony or misdemeanour.

Candidacies can also be rejected if the would-be candidate belongs to an unlawful

organisation, if he/she has "any material interests in any of the government's departments," and if he/she "is a relative of the King to a degree specified by special legislation."

The candidates whose applications were rejected can, according to the law, appeal before the Court of First Instance.

In addition, the law grants voters the right to object to any candidacy to their district before the Higher Court of Justice.

A total of 561 candidates, including 17 women, registered between Oct. 10-13.

Elections for the Kingdom's 13th Parliament, the third since the re-launching of the democratisation process in 1989, are scheduled for Nov. 4.

## U.S. ambassador inaugurates new American language centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — United States Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan and Director General of Education Mahmoud Massad, representing Minister of Education Munther Masri, Wednesday inaugurated the new premises of the American Language Centre (ALC) in the Jandawel district of Amman, according to a U.S. Information Service (USIS) press release Wednesday.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by ALC

staff and students, a large number of ALC alumni, and representatives of several government and private sector organisations that sponsor ALC students, the statement continued.

These sponsors include the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Army Headquarters, the Customs Department, the Central Bank of Jordan, and the Social Security Corporation, according to the announcement.

More than 8,000 Jordani-

ans have studied at the ALC since it was established in June 1989 to meet a pressing need in the community for professional quality English language instruction, the press release continued.

About 50 per cent of ALC students are sponsored by their organisations' recognition of the value of English language education in opening doors to international development and in enhancing commercial ties with nations worldwide, the statement concluded.

## Analysts predict only 3 women will win in elections

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Out of the Kingdom's 17 women candidates running in the 1997 Parliamentary elections, only three might make it to the House, according to analysts and election watchers.

Taleb Awad, who researched and documented the past two elections, said that despite the large number of women running for the 13th Parliament in comparison to previous years, the possibility that any of them will win a seat is low.

Dr. Awad, a researcher at Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, attributes this to the absence of a women's quota in Parliament, tribalism, the lack of unity among women's organisations, and the one-person, one-vote system.

"I believe that women running for the minority seats (Hiam Kalimat and Toujan and Laila Faisal for the Circassian seat) and those supported by political parties (Emily Naffa' of the Jordan's Communist Party and Da'ad Tamimi of the National Constitutional Party) will have the best chances," he said.

However, Tony Sabagh, an independent research consultant, disagrees. He said the one-person, one-vote system "is not the problem, but rather the change in concept among people that the deputy's main function is to provide them

with basic services." He used 1989 as an example. Voters then were able to vote for more than one candidate, but "still none of the 12 women who ran for Parliament were elected."

Mr. Sabagh said women's chances are limited, not because they are women, but "because people believe that male deputies can deliver."

"They can use their positions to help employ people, bail people out of prisons, attend weddings and funerals, etc., functions that women cannot perform at this time."

In addition, Mr. Sabagh said women, especially in rural areas, do not vote for women, but follow the choice of their men folk, and "most tribes want a male member in Parliament that can serve their interests."

During the past two months, more than 35 women expressed their intent to run for Parliament, but only half of this number showed up at registration offices last

week. "This high registration turnout represents a 33 per cent increase over 1989 and a 433 per cent increase over the 1993 elections, but this is due to an increase in women's activities in preparation for this year's elections," Dr. Awad said.

In 1989, none of the 12 women who ran for Parliament succeeded in winning a seat.

The discouraging results of 1993, according to the analysts, led only three women to run in the 1993 campaign. One woman, Toujan Faisal, secured enough votes to clinch the Circassian seat for the Third District.

Ziyad Abu Ghaneimeh, an Islamist who led the Islamic Action Front election campaign in 1993, echoed Dr. Awad and Mr. Sabagh's analysis, but added that the opposition parties' boycott of the elections also played a factor.

"Some opposition and political parties, includ-

ing the Islamic Action Front, intended to nominate women, who would have had better chances," Mr. Abu Ghaneimeh said.

He said that might negatively affect former Deputy Toujan Faisal, "who is going to lose the votes of the opposition and political party supporters."

In other districts, Mr. Abu Ghaneimeh said it is going to be difficult for women, especially in the tribal regions, "because many clans have already announced their support for a certain male candidate."

"Many candidates have already announced their withdrawal from the elections in certain areas in favour of other family members, which means that the votes are destined to go to a certain individual," Mr. Abu Ghaneimeh explained.

Eight women are running in Amman's five districts. They are Aysa Razem-Khawaja (1st, Muslim seat), Toujan Faisal (3rd, Circassian), Emily Naffa' and Norma Nassar (3rd, Christian), Fatmeh Hassounab (4th, Muslim), Laila Faisal and Hiam Kalimat (5th, Circassian), and Fardos Masri (5th, Muslim).

The remaining nine are Fatmeh Obeidat and Samiha Tel (Irbid's 8 Muslim seats), Wissaf Ka'abneh (Central Bedouins' 2 Muslim seats), Sabah Anati (Zarqa's 4 Muslim seats), Ajayeb Hdayes (Balqa's 6 Muslim seats), Da'ad Sultan Tamimi (Aqaba's 2 Muslim seats), Siham Bayaidah and Hafetha Ma'ayah (Karak's 7 Muslim seats), and Nawal Momani (Ajloun's 2 Muslim seats).

### Letter of Condolence

Bassira - Insight, the American Women of Amman and the board of the Al-Hussein Society wish to convey their sympathy to Paula Williams-Brown

on the death of her husband Dennis, whose kindness, caring and generosity of spirit has made him a truly memorable man. Letters of condolence can be sent to:

Paula Brown c/o Rusty Jay  
562 - A  
Avenue J. East  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

**CONDOLENCE**  
The International Staff of UNRWA Jordan mourn the passing of  
**MR. DENNIS L. BROWN**  
former Director of UNRWA Affairs, Jordan and Coordinator of Headquarters, Amman, on Oct. 8, 1997.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### FILMS

\* "Los Gozoz y Las Sombras" (pts. 5, 6, and 7) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, Thursday at 5:00 p.m.  
\* "Empire of the Sun" at the American Centre, Abdoun, Thursday at 5:00 p.m.  
\* Art film: "Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec" (in French — with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Mazen Asfour) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

#### EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

\* Greek film "Me Mia Cravvi" and Spanish film "Teogo una Casa," at the Royal Cultural Centre, Thursday at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., respectively.  
\* Spanish film "Tengo una Casa" and French film "Grosse Fatigue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, Friday at 4:30 and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

#### PLAY

\* Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

#### MOTOR SHOW

\* "Motor Show 98" at the Amman Inter-

national Motor Show (Tel. 714211), until Oct. 20.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* "New Generations" (students' drawings, water colours, and oil paintings) at the Orthodox Club, Abdoun, until Oct. 17.  
\* Paintings by Abdul Qader Bakheet at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 30.  
\* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al Ebadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23 (Tel. 55375980).  
\* "The Project of the Essence, Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90s" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.

\* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 6588967), until Oct. 30.

\* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterrània" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).

\* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.



# Nobel work on supercold gases could improve space navigation

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Three research scientists were jointly awarded the Nobel Physics Prize Wednesday for developing techniques to superfreeze gases and slow down their molecules so they can be studied in detail.

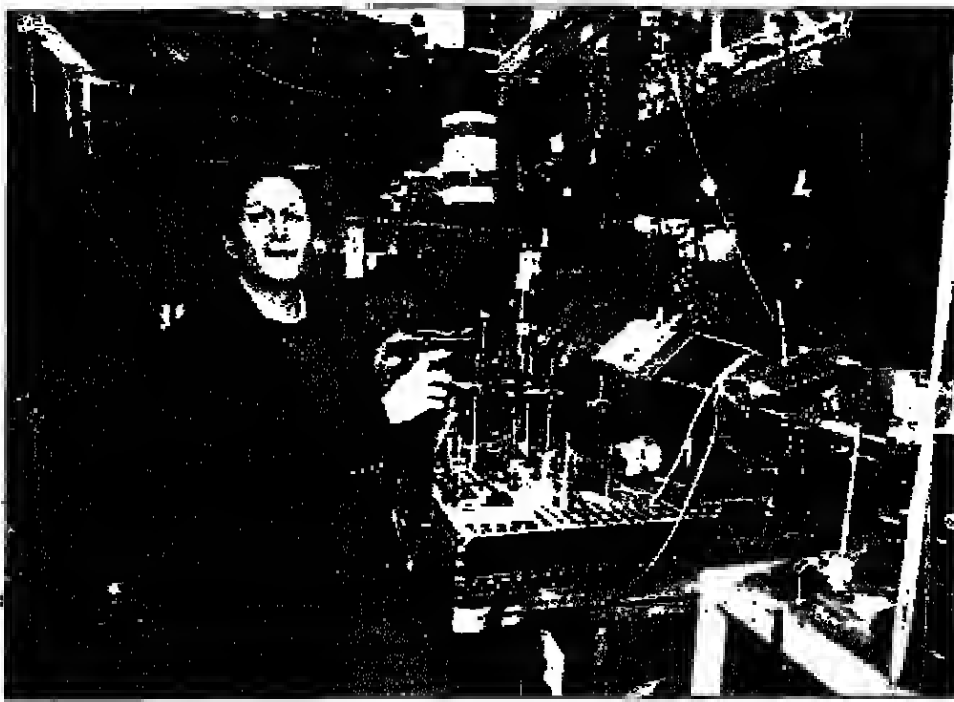
Announcing that two Americans and a Frenchman would share the honour, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the practical implications of their work included designing atomic clocks 100 times more accurate than at present for use in space navigation.

The prize was jointly awarded to Steven Chu of Stanford University, William Phillips of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, a member of the French Academy of Sciences.

The three will share the prize and a cheque for 7.5 million kronor (\$1 million) at a ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, the 101st anniversary of the death of the Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.

Cohen-Tannoudji's colleagues said the announcement was "fantastic" but not unexpected. They said his work had "allowed us to reach an extreme degree of sophistication in manipulating atoms, inconceivable a few years ago."

In its citation, the Nobel Swedish Academy explained that it is hard to study atoms and molecules in gases because at room



Frenchman Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, winner of the 1997 Nobel Physics Prize, seen in his laboratory at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Reuter photo)

temperatures they move in different directions at a speed of about 4,000 kilometres an hour.

Cooling does not solve the problem, because gases condense into liquids and then freeze before the atoms have slowed down enough to be studied.

"Even a temperature as low as minus 270 degrees Celsius involves speeds of about 400 kilometres an hour," the jury said. "Only as one approaches absolute zero (minus 273 degrees C) does the speed fall greatly."

"The three have developed methods of using

laser light to cool gases to the microkelvin temperature range and keeping the chilled atoms floating or captured in different kinds of 'atom traps'."

Microkelvin is one-millionth of a degree above absolute zero.

The laser light functions as a thick liquid, dubbed optical molasses, in which the atoms are slowed down from their normal room temperature speed to speeds of less than one kilometre per hour without the gas becoming solid.

"The new methods have contributed greatly to increasing our knowledge

of the interplay between radiation and matter," it went on.

"In particular, they have opened the way to a deeper understanding of the quantum-physical behaviour of gases at low temperatures."

But the prize-winners' research had practical implications too.

"The methods may lead to the design of more precise atomic clocks for use in, for example, space navigation and accurate determination of position," the citation said.

In 1985, Steven Chu developed a powerful method for cooling atoms

with laser light, called Doppler cooling. Meanwhile, Phillips had developed a Zeeman slower, a coil with a varying magnetic field, along the axis of which atoms could be retarded by an opposed laser beam.

Chu had also "constructed an atomic fountain in which laser-cooled atoms are sprayed up from a trap like jets of water," the citation said.

"With this technique it is believed that it will be possible to build atomic clocks with a hundred-fold greater precision than at present," Phillips found in 1988 that a temperature as low as 40 microkelvins could be attained, six times lower than the theoretically calculated Doppler limit.

"We are very happy but not really surprised because it was predictable," said Serge Haroche, head of the Physics Department at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, where Cohen-Tannoudji has spent most of his career.

Cohen-Tannoudji was "the leader of a French school of atomic physics and optics which has allowed us to reach an extreme degree of sophistication in manipulating atoms, inconceivable a few years ago," said Haroche.

He added that the two Americans were well known by their French colleagues. "This award is amply merited by the three laureates," he said.

## Three share Nobel Chemistry Prize for work on energy transfer in cells

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Three researchers, an American, a Briton and a Dane, were Wednesday jointly awarded the Nobel Chemistry Prize for helping to unlock the mystery of how energy is transferred between living cells.

"The three laureates have performed pioneering work on enzymes that participate in the conversion of the 'high energy' compound ATP," the Swedish Academy of Sciences said. ATP stands for adenosine triphosphate, the universal energy carrier in living cells. Enzymes are complex molecules which accelerate biochemical reactions such as fermentation in yeast.

Paul Boyer of the United States and John Walker of Britain share one half of the prize for showing how an enzyme known as ATP synthase helps in the formation of ATP.

Jens Skou of Denmark receives the other half for the discovery of the enzyme sodium, potassium-activated adenosine triphosphatase.

That enzyme "maintains the balance of sodium and potassium ions in the living cell," the jury said.

The three researchers will be presented with the Nobel Prize, and a shared cheque for 7.5 million kronor (\$1 million), at a ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of the Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.

ATP, which was discovered in 1929, is the universal carrier of chemical energy in all living organisms, from bacteria and

fungi to plants and animals, including humans.

It captures the energy released by the combustion of nutrients and transfers it to reactions that require energy, for example the building of cell components, muscle contraction, transmission of nerve messages and many other functions.

ATP has been called "the cell's energy currency." Several previous Nobel prize-winners were honoured for work on ATP, including the British chemist Alexander Todd who first chemically synthesised ATP in 1948 and won the prize in 1957.

Boyer, the 44th American to win the chemistry prize, was born in Provo, Utah, in 1918. He has been professor emeritus in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California in Los Angeles since 1990.

He began his studies of ATP formation in the early 1950s. His chief interest has been to find out by isotope techniques how ATP synthase functions and, particularly, how it uses energy to create ATP.

"Boyer and his co-workers have proposed, on the basis of biochemical data, a mechanism for how ATP is formed from adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and inorganic phosphate," the citation said.

During the 1990s, Boyer collaborated with crystallographers to clarify the three-dimensional structure of ATP synthase.

"Walker's work complements Boyer's in a remarkable manner and further

studies based on this structure demonstrate the correctness of the mechanism proposed by Boyer," the jury said.

Walker, senior scientist at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, England, is the 24th Briton to win the prize. Born in Halifax in 1941, he was elected to the Royal Society two years ago. "Walker and his co-workers have established the structure of the enzyme and verified the mechanism proposed by Boyer," the Nobel jury said.

Skou, the first Dane to be honoured by the Nobel committee for chemistry, was born in 1918. He received his doctorate at Aarhus University in 1954, became professor of physiology at the same university in 1963 and professor of biophysics in 1977.

Using finely ground crab oocyte membranes, Skou searched for an ATP-degrading enzyme in the nerve membrane that could be associated with ion transport.

In 1957, he published the first article on ATPase, which was activated by sodium and potassium ions. He was the first to describe an enzyme that can promote directed transport of substances through a cell membrane, a fundamental property of all living cells.

Numerous enzymes have since been demonstrated to have essentially similar functions.

The announcement of the chemistry prize concludes the 1997 Nobel season.

## Debut Indian novelist wins top British literature prize

LONDON (AFP) — A debut Indian novelist described as a literary phenomenon Tuesday won the prestigious Booker Prize with her debut novel, "The God of Small Things." Arundhati Roy had been favourite to win the 20,000-pound (\$32,000) award with her controversial novel, which features love-making scenes between a Christian businessman and a low-caste Hindu man and caused outrage in India for its alleged moral contraventions.

Ms. Roy said earlier Tuesday she had no plans to write a second novel despite the huge excitement caused by her debut work, which is set in a picturesque southern India and centres on twins struggling to enjoy a childhood within their bizarre family.

"I'll only write another book when I have a book to

write," said Ms. Roy, 37, who is a part-time screenwriter and a teacher and lives with her filmmaker husband in Delhi. "I've never believed in professionalising. I don't believe in writing a book just because I am a writer," she added.

Her novel, which has been described by many critics as a lyrical masterpiece, started a bidding war among publishers before being snapped up for a reported one million pounds (\$1.6 million).

The other contenders for the prize were Belfast-born Bernard MacLaverty with "Grace Notes," Australian Madeleine St. John with "The Essee of the Thing," Britton Jim Grace with "Quarantine," Mick Jackson with "The Underground Man," and Tim Parks with "Europa."

Booker Prize, chairwoman, Professor Gillian Beer, said after the prize was announced in a central London ceremony late Tuesday: "With extraordinary linguistic inventiveness Ms. Roy funnels the history of South India through the eyes of seven-year-old twins."

"The story is fundamental as well as local: it is about love and death yet tells its tale quite clearly. We were all egotised by this novel."

The author spent four years working on the 350-page book, which has been published in 19 countries, sometimes writing as little as seven lines a day.

Ms. Roy, who says she writes to "make sense of the world," is the latest in a long line of writers to triumph with an Indian-related book.

## 1/2 of world vasectomies performed in China

BEIJING (AFP) — About half of the world's vasectomies are performed in China, a researcher with the state Family Planning Commission told Wednesday the International Population Conference being held here.

"Although the country's rate of vasectomies is about 10 per cent, because the population is so large, China is still in the lead in the world in using this male sterilisation method," said Liu Yunrong, a professor with the commission's Science and Technology Institute.

Some 22 million Chinese men had vasectomies in 1995, or half the world's total for the year, he said, as quoted by the official Xinhua news agency. According to U.N. statistics, about five per cent of men across the world undergo vasectomies.

China's government promotes the operation as part of its strict one-child family planning policy, which is enforced most strictly in urban areas.

Couples having more than one child face economic penalties including fines, loss of promotion and, in the state sector, slashed housing benefits. As a result, some men take the precaution of undergoing the surgical procedure after a first child.

The report praised men for shouldering a larger role in family planning, quoting demographers as saying it will ultimately benefit women and children, protect women's rights, and "help avoid risks and health problems caused by induced abortions."

Foreign experts at the conference have criticised China's family planning authorities for coercing women into unwanted abortions. Beijing insists that forced abortion is officially discouraged and blames overzealous local officials for occurrences for any abuses that occur.

Xinhua quoted experts as saying condom use is growing but should be further promoted. The number of vasectomies performed annually is expected to remain steady, they predicted. China produces one billion condoms annually, it said.

## Congo's ex-strongman claims seizure of oil capital

LIBREVILLE (AFP) — Forces backing Congo's former military strongman Denis Sassou Nguesso have seized control of the centre of the main oil town and port Pointe Noire, a spokesman for his party said Wednesday.

Mr. Sassou Nguesso's Democratic and Popular Forces (FDP) also took the city's airport, and resistance by loyalists of rival President Pascal Lissouba was expected to end towards midday, the spokesman said in the Gabonese capital Libreville.

The Angolan government Wednesday denied that Angolan soldiers had crossed into civil war-torn Congo in an attack on Pointe Noire, after unidentified troops were reported to have crossed the border from Angola's Cabinda enclave.

"Angola has sent no soldiers to Congo," a Defence Ministry spokesman said in Luanda.

However, the Belgian Foreign Ministry Wednesday charged that Pointe Noire, Congo's economic capital, was in the hands of Angolan troops.

"We have received confirmation" that the town has

been taken by Angolan soldiers, Foreign Ministry spokesman Andre Querton said in Brussels, adding that the city was reported quiet.

"The situation is calm," Mr. Querton said. "Since 9:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), there has been no more shooting."

He said that troops loyal to Mr. Lissouba had apparently "left the town."

"There have been no Belgian or other foreign victims to our knowledge," Mr. Querton added.

The French petroleum giant Elf-Aquitaine, with a major stake in Congo through its subsidiary Elf-Congo, issued a similar statement in Paris saying that the "situation was calm and returning to normal" in Pointe Noire.

Elf did not plan to pull out any expatriate workers. About 1,500 of some 2,000 foreign personnel in the town are reported to be French nationals.

Mr. Querton was unable to say whether the Angolan troops said to have invaded were regular soldiers, Luanda permanently stationed large numbers of troops in the area where separatist wings of the Cabinda Enclave Liberation

Front (FLEC) are active.

The main armed independence factions are FLEC-Renewed and FLEC-FAC (Armed Forces of Cabinda), neither of which have ever seriously threatened the activities of oil companies working in the enclave.

The Luanda government has been accused by Mr. Lissouba supporters of sending troops to back General Sassou Nguesso in the civil war that broke out in June, but Angola countercharged that Cabinda had been attacked by Congolese soldiers and aircraft.

"We have never sent soldiers to Congo," the Defence Ministry spokesman said. "We have nothing to do with Congo," he added, though he repeated the Luandan government claim Sunday that forces had attacked from that country and that Angola would take "appropriate measures."

Cabinda, which lies to the north of the rest of Angola between a strip of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) territory and the enclaved Republic of Congo, is Luanda's main source of oil income.

## 'Kevorkian is bad for business'

DETROIT, Michigan (AFP) — Detroit-area hotel operators met here Tuesday to discuss steps to prevent the use of their facilities by clients of assisted-suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian.

"Shame on Kevorkian for putting innocent people through this kind of trauma," said Michael O'Callaghan, president of the Hotel Association of Greater Detroit. "If he wants to do that kind of stuff, he should be doing it in his van or in his garage."

At least 16 people have been found dead in hotel rooms in Detroit suburbs this year following assisted suicide efforts, with Mr. Kevorkian apparently involved in each case.

The bodies are always found alone, usually by a maid or motel worker, with a note referring inquiries to Mr. Kevorkian's attorneys.

Mr. Kevorkian has been linked to more than 60 deaths since he launched his assisted-suicide crusade in June 1990. But his attorney has said the former pathologist has helped in nearly 100 deaths.

Six of the eight deaths linked to Mr. Kevorkian since July 1 have involved people with multiple sclerosis, a non-fatal, progressive disease of the nervous system.

Mr. Kevorkian recently initiated a meeting with Macomb County prosecutor Carl Malinga to see if family members of his clients could transport the bodies to the county medical examiner's office without fear of prosecution.

Mr. Malinga said he was reserving all options to prosecute Mr. Kevorkian, but would research the law to see if he could comply with Mr. Kevorkian's request.

Mr. Kevorkian has been looking for a suitable place for his work since he began his crusade seven years ago. Deaths of Michigan residents have usually taken place in their homes, but clients who come from other states have died in a variety of locations.

Mr. Kevorkian's attorney Geoffrey Fieger said his client hopes soon to make a new effort to open a suicide clinic. One person died in a clinic he had opened in 1995 before authorities closed it down.

Assisted suicide is illegal in Michigan, but Mr. Kevorkian has been acquitted three times.

## AIDS may spread faster in Asia than in Africa — U.N.

BEIJING (R) — AIDS may spread faster in Southeast Asia than in Africa because of widespread drug use in the region, a U.N. official said Wednesday.

"There are many injecting drug-users in Asia who may spread the disease to the general public," said Michel Carael, senior social scientist at the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

"You don't have that in Africa where the epidemic is mainly spread by heterosexuals," Mr. Carael said in an interview at an international population conference in Beijing.

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which can lead to AIDS, is most commonly spread through sexual intercourse and the sharing of hypodermic needles.

A high proportion of intravenous drug users in Southeast Asia meant the disease could spread to the general public easily, Mr. Carael said.

"We think in some countries of the region there will be huge epidemics," he said.

In Thailand, which has a flourishing sex and drugs trade, the infection rate among the adult population was approaching three per cent, compared with 0.6 per cent for Southeast Asia and India combined, U.N. figures showed.

In urban areas of eastern and southern Africa, almost three in every 10 people were infected.

"In south and east Africa, the epidemic is still rising at an incredibly high level," Mr. Carael said.

"The future is very gloomy in Africa. Experts from more than 80 countries were

attending the 23rd general population conference in China, where rapid economic liberalisation has been mirrored by a swing in sexual attitudes, especially in the developed coastal cities.

John Anarfi, a demographer at the University of Ghana, lamented the fact that one of the studies presented at the conference on AIDS and demographics came from Asia. "What was most unfortunate is the complete absence of papers from Asia, which is now regarded as the hottest bed of HIV in the world," he said.

Mr. Carael said much of Asia's future depended on how seriously its governments confronted the disease.

"Southeast Asia may escape a major epidemic if action is taken early," he said. Thailand was a good example of how the epidemic could be contained by widespread use of condoms, education and health services, Mr. Carael said.

AIDS began to spread in Africa some 20 years ago, but only hit Asia in the late 80s, Mr. Carael said. "There is this hope that in countries where the epidemic is just starting, such as China, that with a new drug or a new strategy you can catch the epidemic," he said.

There were only 5,990 reported HIV carriers in China, a nation of 1.2 billion people, a U.N. official said, quoting state statistics released at the end of 1996.

"If their problem is not tackled seriously with a huge prevention programme, there might be a catastrophe," he said.

## Rwandan officials fear high death toll in massacre

KIGALI (AFP) — Hutu Interahamwe militia-men are likely to have massacred far more than 37 people in a raid on a camp for repatriated Rwandans, local officials said Wednesday, fearing many had burned to death.

Late Tuesday, authorities said at least 37 people died in the attack on the camp at Mutura in the northwest of the central African nation, but a top official said Wednesday that fire also swept through the camp.

"Roofs fell in and many tents were razed to the ground. We don't know how many people were trapped by the flames," Gisenyi district administrator Epimache Ndagijimana told AFP.

"This morning, we're going there to try to establish a definitive casualty toll," he added.

The prefect of the troubled province on the border with the former Zaire said the militia attacked early Tuesday morning with guns, machetes and clubs.

They set fire to the camp before security forces could intervene and then fled into the Gishwati forest, a few kilometres to the south, where the militia frequently fall back after raids.

The camp had been home to more than 1,000 repatriated families, mainly minority Tutsis who had returned home in 1994 after then rebels of the mainly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized the capital Kigali.

The repatriates, many of whom had lived for decades in exile from Rwanda when it was dominated by the majority Hutus, had been scheduled to move into villages where "building was well under way", Mr. Ndagijimana said.

None of the assailants was caught, but survivors said they had recognised some inhabitants of the region, where an investigation was under way, he added.

Since August, Gisenyi has been wracked by conflict between the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) and Hutu militiamen and soldiers of the former army who fled, many of them to eastern Zaire, after they were routed by the RPF.

Armed Hutu extremists — many of whom remained over the border with refugees until Laurent Kabila in October last year launched a successful rebellion to oust dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and establish the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) — have been accused of the genocide of up to 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu moderates between April and June 1994.

Civilians have often been the target of recent attacks, including ethnic Tutsis long resident in the former Zaire who had fled to Rwanda and were massacred on Aug. 21, when 131 refugees and 17 other people were killed.



















## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Minister of health cautions against 'medical mafia market'

**\*\* HAVING RECEIVED** many complaints, Health Minister Ashraf Kurdi has cautioned against a "medical mafia market" that continues to attract sick people from abroad for medical treatment at certain hospitals or at the hands of specific doctors with the sole aim of exploiting those persons and not of providing them with medical care and treatment. He said he had held a meeting with the owners of private hospitals to try to stop and control these unethical operations.

The minister said an agreement was reached to give the private sector the benefit of treating sick persons coming from abroad through proper means and providing them with full medical services. Dr. Kurdi added that a committee was formed at the time from all concerned parties to ensure that the patients are given the necessary services upon their arrival at the airport until their departure.

Dr. Kurdi referred to waste and useless expenditure and stressed that all unnecessary spending at the ministry should be stopped, especially sending people

abroad for medical treatment. He indicated that the Ministry of Health has specified the number of those who are to be transferred abroad for treatment at no more than "the fingers on one hand" because medical technology and treatment in the Kingdom are at equal level with those elsewhere outside.

"It is illogical that the ministry bear a JD80,000 cost for the treatment of a child who was sent abroad for two months and returned without completing her treatment. She was later admitted to a hospital in the Kingdom and underwent the necessary operations for only JD200," the minister said. As such, the ministry has decided to stop sending abroad patients who require gamma knife operations because the necessary equipment is available in Jordan.

Dr. Kurdi concluded by saying that the Ministry of Health was able to obtain a 40 per cent discount for treating patient on the gamma knife equipment in Jordan (Al Ra'i).

## Swiss firm helps Jordan upgrade grain silos

**AMMAN (Petra) —** after a three-year grace period. The agreement was signed by Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki and the manager of the Swiss firm Bohler as well as the Swiss ambassador to Jordan, Gian Federico Pedotti.

In remarks after the signing ceremony, Dr. Mulki said the agreement, which is to be implemented in 14 months, aims at upgrading the work of the silos and modernising three types of equipment used in loading and unloading the grain at Aqaba, with a view to speeding up delivery.

Dr. Mulki said: "No doubt these equipment are bound to boost Jordan's import and export capabilities and benefit both the private and public sectors. The Swiss ambassador said the signing of the agreement will reflect positively on the bilateral relation."

## Jordanian businessmen to attend conference in Beirut

**AMMAN (J.T.) —** The Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) announced Wednesday that it will take part in the seventh Arab Conference for Investors and Businessmen which will be held in Beirut between Oct. 18 and 20 under the patronage of Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi.

JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa will head the four-member Jordanian delegation to the meeting which, according to the announcement, will be organised by the Arab League in conjunction with the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

The announcement said the conference aims to strengthen ties among Arab businessmen, open the door for further meetings among investors, enable the investors and businessmen to find partners in joint projects and to enable the participating countries to examine obstacles that impede the flow of capital for investment purposes.

The JBA said in another statement that it has now put the finishing touches to a programme of a seminar entitled "The Jordanian-European Association — Partnership in Development" which the JBA is organising in conjunction with the European Union (EU) on Nov. 24-26, 1997 at the Regency Palace Hotel in Amman.

The statement noted that the convening of the seminar will coincide with the formal signing of the Jordanian-European association agreement at the EU headquarters in Brussels.

It said the seminar will include six sessions covering the main features of the association agreement. Specifically, the seminar will focus on the Jordanian and European views and the impact of the agreement on businesses like pharmaceuticals, tourism and agricultural exports.

The European-Tunisian association experiment will be presented to the seminar which will review several working papers dealing with a wide range of topics, according to the statement.

The JBA will shortly send out invitations to the JBA members and the concerned firms and organisations to take part in the seminar which is expected to be attended by 200 Jordanian businessmen.

## Lebanese businessmen hold trade fair in Baghdad

**BAGHDAD (R) —** Lebanese industrialists and businessmen held a trade fair in Baghdad on Tuesday in the hope of striking trade deals under Iraq's oil-for-food accord with the United Nations.

More than 80 Lebanese companies are taking part, exhibiting goods ranging from foodstuffs to industrial machines, from clothing to canned food and medicines.

"We have come to break the (U.N.) sanctions on the brotherly Iraq," said Khassan Nabulsi, deputy head of the Beirut Industrialists Union.

Mohammad Taher Al Hayali, the Iraqi head of the organising committee, said more than 250 Lebanese businessmen were taking part in the fair, accompanied by representatives of the Lebanese ministries of agriculture, industry and trade.

The fair is the first in Baghdad since Beirut severed ties with Iraq in 1994, after accusing Iraqi diplomats of murdering an Iraqi dissident in the Lebanese capital.

The organisers said they hoped to strike deals with Iraqi traders within the framework of Iraq's oil deal with the United Nations for goods like washing machines, electrical pumps and printing materials, as well as medical and veterinary equipment.

The deal, which took effect last December, lets Iraq sell \$2 billion of oil every six months to buy humanitarian goods.

Last week a 12-member Iraqi delegation headed by the Chairman of Iraq's Chamber of Commerce Adnan Al Qudis went to Lebanon for meetings with officials and visits to factories. A Lebanese business and industry delegation visited Baghdad in May.

In September, a row over the pan-Arab games led to the Lebanese government refusing to grant Iraqi athletes visas to enter Lebanon, and this in turn prompted Iraq to cancel a trade visit to Beirut.

But the countries soon bridged their differences and resumed trade ties and exchanges.

## REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 15/10/97 18:15									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
US Dollar	0.5714	1.7501	0.6161	1.4596	121.35	1.3870	1712.20	1.8718	5.8875
DE Mark	0.5714	1.7501	0.6161	1.4596	121.35	1.3870	1712.20	1.8718	5.8875
GB Sterling	1.6230	2.8415	0.3518	0.8338	99.33	0.7820	977.73	1.1284	3.3821
CHF Franc	0.5851	1.7188	0.6216	1.4266	117.02	1.2511	1778.90	1.8988	5.5230
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4415	0.5072	1.2023	83.14	0.9488	1172.34	1.3301	4.0153
CA Dollar	0.7210	1.2680	0.4471	1.0565	114.14	1.1417	1409	1.6239	4.8902
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0216	0.3395	0.8352	1412.63	0.8095	11.51	3.4230	11.51
NL Guilder	0.5072	88.73	0.3122	0.7402	61.50	0.7031	887.00	1.2370	3.3730
FR Franc	0.1704	0.2383	0.1048	0.2474	20.66	0.2362	33.59	33.5900	11.51

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
US Dollar	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	0.9402	0.3040	3.6728	1536.00	3.3988	10.1818
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	5.2972	0.3325	0.8145	0.2824	3.1878	1268.49	4.8017	14.4124
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	0.1005	0.2611	0.08	408.56	0.0665	0.0665	0.0665
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8790	0.9480	2.3666	197.02	2.2511	2778.90	3.1988	9.5230
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1045	0.1030	0.1030	0.0833	1.01	421.85	0.8330	2.5000
Kuwait Dinar	3.2895	2.3288	1.2388	1.2401	11.97	12.88	3852.63	0.8330	2.5000
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1028	0.1028	0.1028	0.0833	1.01	421.85	0.8330	2.5000
Lebanese/1000	0.85	0.4609	0.2447	0.2454	2.3699	0.1979	2.3911	0.9256	2.2133
Egyptian	0.2942	0.2083	0.1102	0.1109	1.0708	0.0894	1.0804	451.82	13.8630

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	YEN	DM
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	0.1005	0.2611	0.08	408.56	0.0665	0.0665	0.0665
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1028	0.1028	0.1028	0.0833	1.01	421.85	0.8330	2.5000
KW Dinar	3.2895	2.3288	1.2388	1.2401	11.97	12.88	3852.63	0.8330	2.5000
BH Dinar	0.3770	1.4596	0.1213	0.3040	0.3040	3.6728	1536.00	3.3988	10.1818
CY Pound	1.9252	3.3724	1.1866	2.8128	233.815				

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Currency	Period	Rate	Currency	Period	Rate	Currency	Period	Rate	Currency
USD	5.53	5.65	5.73	5.71	5.93	DEM	5.53	5.65	5.73
GBP	7.08	7.12	7.34	7.46	7.59	JPY	0.42	0.43	0.41
JPY	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.48	0.47	DEM	3.36	3.54	3.68
DEM	3.36	3.54	3.68	3.68	3.80	USD	5.53	5.65	5.73

Main Equity Indices											
Country	Index	Value	Change	Country	Index	Value	Change	Country	Index	Value	Change
New York	DOW JONES	8068.77	-60.52	London	FT-SE 100	5253.4	-45.5	Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	17331.37	24.88
New York	S&P 500	968.29	-3.99	London	FT-SE 100	5253.4	-45.5	Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	17331.37	24.88
London	FT-SE 100	5253.4	-45.5	Paris	CAC 40	2992.16	-13.38	Frankfurt	DAX	4193.89	-8.68
										</	

Energy			* JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Daily	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/lbs)	170.17	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1674	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1454	1.1511
Sugar (\$/ton)	288.2	Spot	DE Mark	0.4038	0.4058
Wheat (\$/ton)	141	Spot	CH Franc	0.4530	0.4563
Soya (c/lbs)	24.1	Spot	FR Franc	0.1204	0.121
Tea (stg/kg)	154	Spot	JP Yen	0.5527	0.5535
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3595	0.3603
Rice (\$/ton)	430	Spot	IT Lira	0.4129	0.415

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 15/10/1997									
PART	12 MONTHS HIGH	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUED TRADED	OPEN PRICE
BANK	346,000	241,500	ARAB BANK	15.1	1.22	8	540	177200	328.00
	2,340	1,800	JOR. INVEST. BK.	10.8	0.00	13	4450	6411	3.89
	1,190	890	MID. EAST. INV. BK.	73.6	0.00	1	50	56	1.13
	2,600	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.2	6.13	10	3200	8279	2.59
	5,280	4,600	JOR. EDUCATION	14.9	3.90	10	3131	15589	4.98
	4,050	3,520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.6	3.30	9	2750	10023	3.66
	3,980	3,080	JOR. INV. TR. BANK	24.9	0.00	1	300	388	3.88
	2,030	1,680	HEIT. AL-JAL. (SEITWA)	16.48	0.00	2	450	410	0.89
			BANK SECTOR TOTALS	INDEX: 236.84	CHG: +0.21	57	14740	220625	
	4,550	3,800	JERUSALEM INSTR.	10.7	5.06	2	350	1383	3.95
INSURANCE	2,050	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	22	20305	38691	1.93
	4,030	3,320	INSUR. CO. JORDAN	21.8	3.14	3	1100	4026	3.49
	3,610	3,000	WATL. PORTFOLIO	10.8	0.00	7	1850	2350	1.28
	1,010	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	2	5500	5060	0.92
	3,720	2,890	ARAB INVT. INV. EDUC.	9.5	0.00	19	7628	27740	3.60
	1,170	920	KASBA EDUCATION	9	0.00	11	18700	17768	0.64
	950	640	UNION LAND DEV.	0	0.00	3	1500	1130	0.77
			INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS	INDEX: 114.57	CHG: 0.00	2	350	1383	
	2,050	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	22	20305	38691	1.93
	4,030	3,320	INSUR. CO. JORDAN	21.8	3.14	3	1100	4026	3.49
SERVICE	4,450	3,270	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.6	3.56	17	6532	20315	3.25
	4,140	3,000	JOR. FERTILIZER INDUS.	10.1	2.74	16	50000	182500	3.70
	7,110	5,100	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.8	8.00	16	2650	29357	11.00
	7,200	4,500	JORDANIAN TANKERS	6.1	6.05	1	100	495	4.85
	1,410	1,050	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	9.3	9.35	1	100	107	1.08
	3,260	2,520	INDUSTRIAL COM. SERV.	9	0.00	12	1350	2371	1.57
	7,150	5,800	JOR. WAREHOUSE MILLS	10.6	3.03	2	349	2303	6.90
	4,700	3,040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	11.9	4.63	30	8633	37942	4.44
	1,760	1,200	JOR. PAPER INDUS.	14.6	6.18	5	1850	2103	1.20
	6,000	4,300	DAR AL-BAH. DEV. INV.	13.7	4.66	2	500	3800	5.70
INDUSTRIAL	3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.46	1	1900	4541	2.38
	710	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	16	8950	4475	0.51
	1,230	820	ARAB PAPER CORP. IND.	26.9	0.00	1	500	440	0.89
	7,150	5,800	JOR. WAREHOUSE MILLS	10.6	3.03	2	349	2303	6.90
	4,700	3,040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	11.9	4.63	30	8633	37942	4.44
	1,760	1,200	JOR. PAPER INDUS.	14.6	6.18	5	1850	2103	1.20
	6,000	4,300	DAR AL-BAH. DEV. INV.	13.7	4.66	2	500	3800	5.70
	3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.46	1	1900	4541	2.38
	710	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	16	8950	4475	0.51
	1,230	820	ARAB PAPER CORP. IND.	26.9	0.00	1	500	440	0.89
GRAND TOTAL	1,670	1,120	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	7	4000	2203	0.57
	1,200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	8450	4808	0.55
	1,680	1,080	UNIV. HOUS. TRUS.	9	0.00	26	59580	40537	64
	1,460	890	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	12.2	10.99	8	51100	46495	0.91
	1,070	510	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	16	9400	8215	0.88
	1,380	1,080	INVT. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	2	2500	590	1.19
	1,200	840	UNION CH. & YEG.	52.1	0.00	27	24246	25724	1.14
			INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS	INDEX: 115.07	CHG: -1.30	214	245813	426612	
			GRAND TOTAL	INDEX: 170.28	CHG: -0.35	340	318486	745376	
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 15/10/1997									
630	300	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	5	3500	1180	0.34	0.01
1,610	1,360	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	66	150660	58734	1.29	0.01











